

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

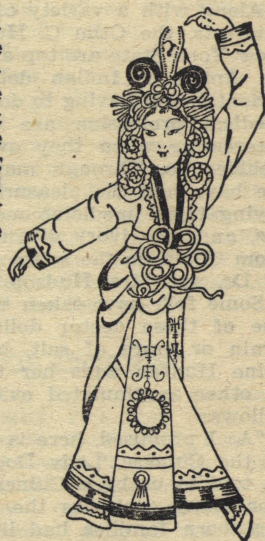
Volume 9, Number 4

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FROM CHINA



As this New Year dawns, "From China" might be visualized in our mind's eye as a swarm of cruel genii pouring forth from some Pandora's Box that had been opened by mischievous, by evil, great red hands. But time was when there came from that vast land, that friendly land, such Oriental art and treasure as enriched our total world. One thinks long thoughts of how and why and what should have been handled otherwise. But Baby New Year, like us all, must start from where we stand today.



So does this little magazine. It happily continues, here presenting things that came "From China" when one could visualize the source as a rich chest of teak or cinnabar—overflowing with sumptuous fabrics, embroideries and brocades, carvings of ivory and precious stone, rare porcelains, bronzes, cloisonné!

Brave in this mood of cultured past are little actor dolls, with white or pink mask faces. They are most gorgeously arrayed in shining stuff, tinsel, silk pompoms, vivid hued silk, braids, sequins and cut out patterns of metallic paper. Each dainty doll is mounted on a black wood base, about 2 inches square. The dolls themselves are 4 inch size, but with fantastic headgear; height is

good 5½ inches. Their number is 806, price \$2.15 each, and may we urge a pair, even though stock is limited.

Nothing is so flamboyantly col-

orful as the theatrical dolls, but equally traditional are silk padded, bas relief sets of Immortals. This style of portrayal of the deified Eight has been made in China for centuries. Inexpensive, these paper backed dolls have well painted silk faces, softly padded to curve. Feet, hands and some possessions are painted paper, but cunningly contrived overlapping garments are padded silks, and four have real hair beards. Aside from the Eight, identified by their accompanying Kimport "pedigree," there is a ninth doll in the strip, "Lao Tze," founder of Taoism. 5½" size, No. 438X, the set \$2.00.

"LADY DOCTOR DOLL"

Along with a variety of cultural interests, the Otho C. Hudsons of New York State are top authorities on American Indian dolls. Items Oriental, and having to do with the medical profession are especially interesting when they overlap, as hobbies do. Through many years, we have had the pleasure of supplying tribal medicine men, amulets, and also ivory diagnosis dolls from China, to the select collection of Dr. and Mrs. Hudson.

Some folk have taken the actual use of these doctor dolls with a grain or more of salt, but Catherine Hudson adds her testimony to other accumulated evidence, as follows:

"As I promised, here is the story of the Chinese 'Lady Doctor Doll' as told to us by a Chinese friend. For many centuries the ladies in high-born families had little freedom or contact with the world outside their family circles. The only men they were allowed to see were their fathers and brothers. When

a girl married, just before she left home, her mother presented her with a recumbent female figurine, usually resting on a teakwood stand, in such a way as to show her entire body. Any time the Chinese lady became ill, her maid was sent to the doctor with this doll. She pointed to the exact spot on the little carving where her mistress was in distress and described in detail the symptoms. The doctor then prescribed the treatment. He could never personally see his patient. Hence, the name "Lady Doctor Doll" which seems most correct. Our favorite Lady Doctor Doll is supposed to be nearly three hundred years old. It has a lovely deep patina and represents a definite pregnant lady. Most appropriate for the collection of the family of a doctor!"

DOCTOR DOLLS OFFERED

In all the Kimport stock we know of nothing that can guarantee a more galvanic boost to a sagging collection than a "medicine lady" from old Cathay. Ivories, smooth and rich with the patina of years, perhaps one of jade, carnelian or of the tawny translucent tusk of a rhino. These ancient family dolls, used by modest ladies for their physicians to diagnose in times of pain and illness, are, by the way, the only examples of nudity in Chinese art.

We have very few to offer, but such treasures are submitted to us from time to time. If you should not secure one of the following ones, you could register on a "want list" for word when another turns up. 'Wonderful gift for a doctor—or doll collector.

Definitely the largest and one of the most beautiful examples we have ever had—or seen—is a luscious Lady Doctor Doll 9 inches in length, weighs over half a pound. Of special beauty is the carving of her eyelids, full breasts, bracelets above both well shaped hands and hundreds of hair lines through her strange coiffure. There is a drapery, modestly held, that extends on past the small bound feet. Accompanying stand is very old also, and exquisitely fashioned of satin finish wood. It exactly cradles the doll's body, even to one small impression where the right hand rests. No. 424, \$120.00.

A small but very pretty one, scant 4 inches long, also comes with a base, this being carved wood, more like a couch, and I think this little ivory lady is certainly pregnant. She has a lotus bloom in the left hand, held up over one shoulder, and is both interesting and pretty. No. 424D, \$40.00.

Of the same white ivory, but not such a fine piece, is a very slender, stylized one, almost 7 inches long, with the tiniest of bound feet. This has no base; very flat and really almost conventional looking; there are a few cracks in the antique ivory and rough marks in the grain underneath, but still it is a large, 6 3/4 inch one and interesting. No. 424C, price, \$30.00.

Smaller Doctor Doll of the same period styling, 5 1/4 inches. Yellow "thumb" stains show where the ivory has been held in hand—oh, countless times. No. 424B, \$27.50.

The sixth is a voluptuous look-

ing one made of rhinoceros horn, rather translucent red-orange color material. She is in a reclining position also, but has her head held rather high up on one elbow; also no base; No. 424CX, \$30.00.

Not medical, but ancient and symbolic, is another ivory doll. Yes, these little carved boy amulets were made so many years ago that the proper adjective seems to be "ancient" rather than "antique." These funny little dolls of well worn ivory may have been stored away with the doctor doll lady, except when needed. But, come the day when a son was desired, this rather witchy looking, sturdy little chap was placed in evidence; pregnant women often attached a silken cord through the head and body of such a doll, wearing him as an ever present charm. That is why the hole is bored through the ivory and some have been so worn so many times that the graven features are almost worn away! About 2 inches high, a most intriguing collector item, No. 449CZ, only \$13.50. We have several as it was a collection, laboriously assembled that we acquired. That fact also accounts for the low price.

FOR CLEANING

Glass wax is excellent on composition, with fine steel wool on difficult spots. Cold cream may do wonders for wax. Naphtha bath can be beneficial to a grimy wig or non-washable doll clothes. We even submerge small dolls in toto. Cake magnesia is a help on white cloth, wool especially—and oh, yes, soap 'n' water has also been known to give gorgeous results.



LATE ARRIVALS

You might think that a doll company would have spent all of their energy on Christmas. But that's not the way things go around Kimport where supplying collector dolls is our year around project. Witness that young Doll-of-the-Month idea—really January is the ideal time for YOU to allocate your Christmas cash to dolls and for US to brag about what's new.

New for our line, and in from Italy too late for the Christmas Doll Talk, are the cunningest little weather vanes—but dolls too. Yes, Gloomy Guiseppe and Sunny Salina, with her parasol, are the prophetic pair, wooden dollies less than an inch tall who go in and out of their quaint little house, all according to weather. It is a jolly bit of peasant made frippery; under the cherry red roof is a built out window with hearts on its shutters, this on a log gable with cross logs protruding through, oh, very authentic. Fitted ready to hang. Height over all, from chimney top to the bottom scallop of a bright painted "apron," is 6½ inches. "Noah's Ark" style wooden pair — AND their weather vane house, No. 782, \$2.75. 'Twould make a dear, predictive Valentine!

Exactly meeting the schedule of last Belgians out, came new Belgians in! This is a repeat order on those piquant young folk we proudly presented last May-June.



There was a sketch of Albert and Li'beth fisherfolk, who are back again, and here now is a drawing of Brigitte. All are excellent buys, 9 inches tall, with pressed felt faces, enameled eyes and firm cloth bodies. Brigitte of Bruges wears red painted wooden shoes to match her scarlet flannel dress, lace trimmed net cap, stole and apron. She is No. 302B. Albert, in smock and so'wester hat is No. 302, and his coast-wise girl, Li'beth, No. 302A. Price, \$3.95 each, which is an excellent value in Europeans.

Far from beautiful, but oh, so welcome into the foreign fold, is brown (cloth) skinned "Roraima" native of old Surinam or Dutch Guiana. Her pretty name is in honor of the great red mountain which rises sheer from the green jungle, over on the border of British Guiana and Venezuela.

Whoever thought up Roraima's pattern was an original one. Ears and nose protrude ingeniously,



there are five rolled and tied fingers straight seamed into each hand; padded, appliqued bosoms and such shapely legs with darts and curves and ample bulk! She is a clean, neatly made doll, dressed something like her Dutch colonial cousins, the Javanese. Scant 9" tall, No. 304AX, \$4.50.



"Farmer's Daughter" — ah yes, there really is such a bland but

luscious looking blonde. She came from the Soviet Union, even before that last war when the Russians and we were Allies. Strange are the vicissitudes of nations and of dolls. These wholesome Kulak girls were packed away in the strongest, heaviest, darkest, iron bound, big, wooden cases that ever came to Kimport. We felt as if we'd paid twice after the struggle in getting those boxes opened! — Anybody want a dog house? Oh well, the Cozy dolls were safe, fresh and pretty. Shaped cloth faces, highlighted big blue eyes, silk floss wigs with a braid, pink cloth hands like the faces. Over each heavily padded Cozy base is a bright print suspender skirt and white apron; white blouse and a color print babuska completes the costume. Length about 11", but settled down to sit, say 9 inches. No. 902B, \$3.95.

Quite a lot of doll is Donna Lucrezia of the Azores when one considers this full bosomed lady 11" tall is only \$6.50. Her distinctive Island dress marks her as one more collector class foreign as does also the native cork base upon which she is mounted. She wears a peasant blouse, apron over long skirt, a bundled print scarf around her pretty cloth head and then over that a long black cape, atop which sets a round, pompomed turban. Quite a costume, as worn only in the Azores. No. 1003A, \$6.50.

Ten or twelve years ago, one of the best selling Kimport foreigners was Japanese "Etsu" with narrow glass eyes and long, black, bobbed hair. Time juggled the fortunes of this Oriental miss, up,



down and around in a succession of historical happenings. Now again, we have "Etsu," petite in 5" size, but with the same nice detail of red print silk kimono faced back with lemon yellow, a gold threaded sash, same eyes and hair. No. 807, \$1.45.

Identical, but miniature, is a cunning 2" version. The two are really precious together as Mommy Etsu and Minnie Etsu. Wee one, No. 801, in her red print gift box, 95c.

IT'S A BANQUET!

Mrs. William Roth prefaced the following quote with appreciation of Kimport Ecuadorians that had just arrived, and followed it with:—"guess I'm a greedy soul," and an order for their Christmas doll. She did admit in current vernacular, "This appetite for collecting

puts me on a financial diet." So-o, we share the Roth family pleasure in this free feast of dolls.

"We have hit a jack-pot since you last heard from us. A very generous friend gave us 33 foreign dolls. They were gathered around the turn of the century during the travels of her grandmother, which makes them almost antiques as well. Heads are practically all German bisque, and most do need hospitalization — new wigs, parts of costumes to be made over, faces cleaned, etc. Many of the new additions carry baskets. Some of them for peddling fish, others for flowers, the Welsh girl carries a peat basket on her back. Wilhelmina from Holland is very interesting. She wears black shoes and stockings, striped outing flannel bloomers, heavy cotton petticoat (gray striped), another black print petticoat, an overskirt of red striped heavy drill and black wool apron and blouse. Accent for the costume is the white shawl and white lace cap. An English doll dressed by nurses in a London hospital is in exact replica of their wearing apparel.

"You are such nice people to deal with that I always feel like I am writing to good friends."

REMINDER

I'm tying a red, white and blue string around my rememberin' finger on account of a good husband who wrote in with his Christmas order: "Also, if you have any kind of calendar that you keep, wish you would please give me some suggestions about July—each year. Here's a confession, I forgot my wife's birthday last time."

WE LIKE—

The Los Gatos Times gave three columns of chummy chatter to a reporter's visit with Mrs. Harold Shuman — and her 150 dolls. Knowing both Elayne (Mrs. H. S.) and her delightful mother, we can well understand how their enthusiasm would combine with information and special stories about the dolls, until any news-woman, on routine assignment, would find herself simply spinning in new, rare atmosphere!

In paragraph one was featured the "spite doll" which, with all its malicious powers failed to becloud the cheery Shuman living room. Foreign dolls, especially the more exotic ones such as Balinese, a Labrador man, Peruvians, Australians and Lapps, were given top billing. You see "Round the World in an Afternoon" can't be accredited alone to dolls; the living room has Chinese accents, kitchen goes festively Mexican, four-year-old David's room is Pennsylvania Dutch, and of all things, shamrocks and the likes in an Irish bathroom!

Checking back to 1937 in their Kimport folder we find Mother Shore inquiring about collection dolls for her little daughter Elayne. About fifty dolls have been sent from here to there. We have well noted the kinds best liked not only by this particular family but by ever so many of you. This all adds immeasurably to the close friendly feeling we at Kimport have for you, and, thanks, for the oft expressed confidence and personal regards you share with us.

CHILD HOBBIES

Being a mother of three, and now a grandmother of four, one can readily see that I've accumulated years of child interest. Angelo Patri's columns have long been so helpful through many phases that perhaps a few quotes from this famous psychologist may answer a question that some of you have asked me. "Wonder why Diane wants to sell her collection and buy sweaters?" "Patty seems to have lost interest in dolls, although I've certainly selected the best ones for her — Why?"

We do have opinions of our own, but this time maybe Bell Syndicate won't mind if we quote from the Patri episode "Children's Hobbies Are Aids in Building Character":

"A child who has a hobby is in luck. He should be encouraged to follow it and helped to do so.

"Children in the early years of adolescent growth are likely to be enthusiastic about many things, taking up one interest after another and letting them go seemingly without any benefit from each experience. That benefit was there, however. No experience goes to waste. As long as the child gets some degree of knowledge or skill out of an experience, it has added to his store of background ideas and emotions and makes it possible for him to understand and accept the next experience with finer appreciation. Each rounded experience feeds the next one.

"In short, a hobby is a fine force for character building, for a healthy outlook on life and people generally."



January is the leaf-turning month wherein each year we take stock, look over individual faults and deficiencies, perhaps do a bit of confessing and resolving. So here and now I'd like to report an error in last Doll Talk, this department, where a French boy doll, No. A528, was described as a Jumeau. I truly believed he was, as he's a dashing 8½" lad marked on his smooth bisque head, "S.F.B.J." and "Paris." "Bebe Jumeau" is such a well known marking that one could accept the B. J. as its abbreviation with S.F. just Somethin' Foolish or Some Finagling! What this really stands for is "Societe Francaise de Fabrication des Bebes et Jouets (French Society for the Manufacture of Dolls and Toys). needless to say, the French sailor never left Kimpert without proper credentials. He's still a petite Romeo (by any other name) priced reduced in contrition, and all this two time publicity free! French Sailor, No. A554, \$23.00.

[And now for some dolls that need no apology, truly beautiful and never separated—Mary and Martha. There is not a single check in the fine quality wax on their dear old heads, which, by the way, are of the loveliest creamy peach tint, not at all the bright pink. The young lady twins have early porcelain brown eyes. Ash blonde wigs are most elaborately done and in amazingly fine condition with upswept ringlets and puffs and little circle curls around

the forehead. In the pierced ears of one are old gilt glass teardrops, and jet beads in the other. Their identical dresses were most elaborately hand-made with puffing and bustles, but being taffeta, pin-checked taffeta, by the way, they had split pretty badly. We worked over the tops of them, taking off extra worn sections as the sleeves to strengthen other parts, then using worn old black velvet to make proper period jackets, these braid trimmed and most effective. Darling dolls, 16 inches tall; easily worth \$75.00 each, but the two together, \$130.00. They are No. A557.

Pristine also, is 12 inch Civil War period, china "Mary Lou." She boasts original old arms and flat heeled legs; very deep, sloping shoulders, all in remarkable condition. The hands are slender, extra nice and high glaze. She has been re-dressed, I think, from time to time, although the dimity dress looks quite old and certainly becoming. No. A512, she is \$32.50.

Same size as Mary Lou is a ball head, closed mouth bisque girl with pretty brown glass eyes and blonde wig; not the original body, but beautiful bisque hands and parian type legs with flat ballet slippers. She is sweetly costumed; this plump cheeked little ball head bisque with a dimple is one everybody likes. No. A140, marked special at the same price, \$32.50. They would make a darling pair at \$65.00, although the types are different; each a good example of its kind.

In the realm of unusuals, how about mechanical or musical dolls, wooden ones, or parian specials?

First, is a beautiful bisque mechanical in splendid condition; long slender fingers posed so beautifully with the pointing and little fingers extended, tiny fingernails, dimples and all—I am sure such hands were made only by Bru of Paris. The head is the original one but it is not Bru, more likely a fine German bisque. The doll is 17 inches tall, a gypsy with tambourine and flowing black hair under a little velvet cap with bangles, and earrings. She is dressed most colorfully in watermelon pink satin, elaborately beaded with tiny metallic beads. Cap and bolero of black velvet are also heavily beaded, and the long bangle earrings match the shoe buckles. The tune played on this music box is, "Finiculi, Finicula," an Italian street song which you perhaps know, as it is certainly a lovely and popular old tune. The doll's feet are solidly attached to a 4 inch base that contains the music box, but she moves, swaying at the hips and shoulders, even flirting with her long, lashed eyes. The tambourine is in her upheld right hand, all in all, a wonderful collector item. No. A1407, priced at \$200.00.

A music box, very old and quaint, features little half dolls on top, presumably carved of chestnuts, although, frankly, they look more like buckeyes. Each doll head is carved, the bases are also of the polished nuts; hair style is Colonial period; old satin and lace dressing, probably original. They date around the middle of the 18th century, according to the owner who had found them in Italy. When he turns the white porcelain crank on the side of the box, the

lady doll twirls around rapidly, while the gentleman doll sways slightly and plays his violin. The box is covered with delightful old book paper, and the tune is quite a merry one which continues only as long as one turns the handle. It seems they were something of a fad two hundred years ago. No. A462, the price, \$85.00

Two that are not unduly expensive, are a walking Charlie Chaplin of smart, foreign make, and an old German toy skating rink or stage effect, this with a backdrop of lithographed snow scene and built up of icy-looking rocks. The stage itself is about 8 inches square and a scant 3 inches tall, with old-fashioned holly paper done all around the edge of it. There are three little doll figures as part of the setting, near the back; a white porcelain crank turns on the front to grind out a jolly skating tune, while a little mystery man in fancy costume whirls and dances all around. The trick is, I am sure, a magnet underneath the stage that holds this little doll in place. It is a precious old toy, No. AB702, price \$25.00.

The Charlie Chaplin doll has big shoes that look like the early day actor wore; carries a typical cane over his arm; wears a derby hat, checked trousers and cut-away coat, all original. Key-wind Charlie is No. AB37, is 12 inches tall and definitely a gay collector item. Price, \$30.00.

One other mechanical is an especially cute little key wind Drunkard doll, who bobs his head, carries a bottle in one hand and a glass in the other. He is in the original old box with picture and inscription in the French—"Le Pochard."

Now here is the rub—he has been played with until the key wind does not take effect any more. If that part were perfect, he would really be a treasure, as he is dated 1900, but as is, this fifty year old doll, mostly metal, No. A591, is \$6.50. His exact mate, "Le Gai Violiniste" is pictured on Page 24 of Mrs. St. George's new "Dolls of Three Centuries."

Old mechanicals that aren't all there often come at real bargain prices. We have a 10½ inch girl, the head in most perfect condition I have ever seen on one of the X.L.C.R. Patent, Sept. 8, 1868. This is the Hawkins head used on mechanical dolls of the day. This was a walking doll, pushing a baby buggy, but there is no buggy now, only the holes in the front of her skirt where the handles used to be. Otherwise, she is in stationary but excellent condition, original clothes, leather hands and shoes. No. A771, as is, \$35.00.

When "Speaking of Antiques," the super and expensive ones do someway crowd to the front. Better not now list the woodens and parians, but acknowledge that there are many lesser loves. We'll list a dozen or so.

Slender featured, handsome, doll-house man, or one might say "bonnet" doll on account of his natty brown cap of bisque. Body seems to be a replacement, but head alone is worth his price of \$13.00. No. A589, he is 6½ inches tall, dressed in brown wool suit.

"Merry Widow" is a 5½ inch precious with pink bisque limbs to match her pretty head; inset brown glass eyes, lady wig with a topknot of soft brown hair. She

wears a precious, removable formal of black lace ruffles with the tiniest of hand-made corsages. No. A561, \$16.50.

The third doll-house doll is most unusual, a smart darkie houseman that we simply took for bisque when we bought him. He's really hard rubber though, with good African features, a body that bends into any firm position; wears white linen coat and black wool trousers and is cute as can be. 5¾ inch butler is No. AB627, \$9.00. He'd be perfect with a doll house family.

Two girls to be dressed are 7½ inch bisque headed pretties with regulation stuffed bodies, white bisque arms and legs with brown glazed shoes. No. A562 has a big pink bow modeled into her blonde bob and a light blue ruffle around her bisque shoulders. She is \$11.50. No. A563 is pinkish tint bisque with long, side parted hair of light brown. Her blue eyes are roguishly painted into a side turned glance. Price, \$8.95.

We have that same style in one larger size, head only. It is a well liked child style pink, 3¾ inches high, 2¾ across shoulders, the hair a tawny apricot hue. Four holes for sewing it onto a body. No. AB541, \$12.50.

Black, high glaze Frozen Charlotte, perfect and almost 4 inches tall. Slender body, arms held forward and completely out from body. No. A458, \$9.00.

"Time to Re-tire," the Firestone Baby has the most mischievous roll to his big brown eyes, the pertest peak to his brown baby hair and the roundest big tummy in his ice blue sleepers! All bisque of fine quality, 4¼ inches high and

certainly cunning from the buttons down his back to Kewpie mouth and pixy eyebrows. No. A564, \$7.50.

All bisque little girl jointed only at shoulders, is 6 inches tall; ball head with new auburn wig, closed lips and rose pink shoes below blue gartered white socks. Beautifully dressed in pale blue silk lace with hand made rosebuds to complement her fancy bisque legs. No. A551, \$7.95.

Also all bisque, and 6 inches tall, is "Jamie," a splendid example of the pretty imported doll with costume modeled on. This lad has blonde curls below a white toboggan cap, matching a folded up, turtle neck sweater and socks with turned back frill tops. These garments are sharply modeled to give a knitted effect as well as all bodily contour wrinkles. Trousers are pearl gray, complexion ruddy; wire jointed at hips and shoulders. Circa 1885, No. A590 \$9.00.

Tan bisque, with sweet Oriental tot features, is 4½ inch "Chin Chin Baby." Jointed shoulders, nude except for yellow slippers and bonnet with big daisy like pompoms. A long, black braid, glazed, hangs down her dimpled back. German make, perfect; before World War I. No. 443, \$8.50.

And to close, a full dozen from old (1925) stock, of AM. bisque baby heads. These infants are very like the GSP Bye-Lo, with that lovable, new-born look. Misty eyes that sleep, flange type neck, these chubbies look like they might grow into red heads, should that film of hair tint develop! Nine inch circumference size is No. A592, \$6.50. Eleven inches around, No. A592L, \$10.00.

CONGRATULATIONS TO A.M.H.

That's to Alice Hill of Houston, who got in first with a Doll-of-the-Month blank, has had her first 12 dolls with the free 13th, and is now starting over again. Her monthly payments averaged \$6.68 according to (Mrs.) Georgie Johnson, whose special pets are the D.O.M. folk. Georgie's letter to Mrs. Hill notes a \$5.20 advance credit on our books toward next year's selection which, she urges, might even average out a few dollars higher for better, or more expensive dolls.

Because the Hill dozen had been requested as predominantly foreign, a fascinating Moslem woman of Pakistan, No. 651A at \$6.95, was sent as the lucky 13th.

TO HAVE AND TO SHARE

Mrs. A. J. Goodman writes from her home in Alaska, expressing delight with the latest Kimport package. We think her special reason for collecting is so sound and yet so jolly that it is being passed along for other grandmother inspiration: "I am really collecting dolls for my grandchildren, but they are too young yet to appreciate their value, so I keep them in my home. When they come here to visit, I get 'their dolls' out and they are allowed to get acquainted with them.

"The children's parents are remodeling their attic to make two nice bedrooms, where a cabinet for the dolls can be built in under the sloping side. By that time, they should have quite a nice collection and in the meantime, I am having a joyous time!"

By the way, hers is a D.O.M. collection, started March, 1950.

SOLUTION FOR DITHERS

Charlotte Bailey writes from Ohio: "What a dither I've been in the past two days! For my twenty-fourth birthday, my dear granny decided I should have a new collection doll, giving me the funds to spend as I wished. I've made up my mind, and changed it; then made it up, and changed it again—but finally, I've decided on the Moroccan Water Peddler. I've coveted him for years. You had him about fourteen years ago, when I was a little girl and first heard of Kimport. Perhaps some day I'll manage to afford the whole motley crew!"



Personally, I think "Gunga Din" is a most unsanitary little rowdy, with that dingy goat skin water bag and public tin cup! But, thanks be, lots of enthusiastic doll fans do not demand daintiness and

beauty for a whole collection. Like young Mrs. Bailey, they go for personality and a story that brings close far places.

No. 100A—Gunga Din, Moroccan Water Carrier, 8".....	\$4.95
No. 100N—Ayesha, Moroccan Desert Woman, 8".....	\$4.95
No. 100M—Rahman, Moroccan Riff, 8".....	\$4.95
No. 100E—Moroccan Holy Man, 8".....	\$4.95
No. 100P—Moroccan Country Woman, 8".....	\$4.95

TO MEHITABLE ANNE

"You've been sitting so long Mehitable Anne
In your place on the cabinet shelf
With your china curls and your deep blue eyes
Just smiling away to yourself.

Somebody loved you, Mehitable Anne
Or you would not be here today.
With never a crack in your china head
Or a tear in your dress so gay.

But never a word says Mehitable Anne
All alone with her dear recollections
And all we can say is to tell everyone
"She's oldest of all our collections."

Serene on the shelf sits Mehitable Anne
And smiles as she dreams of the past.
A fragile example that proves the truth
How love—and dolls—can last!"

Judith Bragg—Kansas.

DOLL TALK

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

BUT IT'S PLAY

Helen Young, designer of "Ginger", "Alice", and the Gay 90's ceramic dolls which we have so fondly featured, has not been making any for a number of months. She writes, though, that her heart still has a longing for the enterprise, so - - - here's hoping.

In the meantime, a current letter includes this story from Helen:

"Not long ago I went through our Casa Colina Home for Crippled Children, where most of the youngsters are polio victims. One of the things they do in their therapy room is to use big rubber dolls, about two-year-old size (Pennys supply them). The children dress and undress them, and pitifully enough, the dolls also have leg braces, just like the children wear, so they can learn to put them on. As with much of the other therapy, the line between play and treatment is nonexistent."

Eighteen hundred fifty-eight is a date well established in Doll Americana, when Mr. Ludwig Greiner, our first real doll manufacturer took out a patent for his method of constructing a durable composition head.



PAPER DOLLS

A Guide To Costume

Many of you have enjoyed such satisfaction in building up a library section on dolls. I know I am personally proud of my rows of such books, both rare and still available, use them considerably and cherish them fondly.

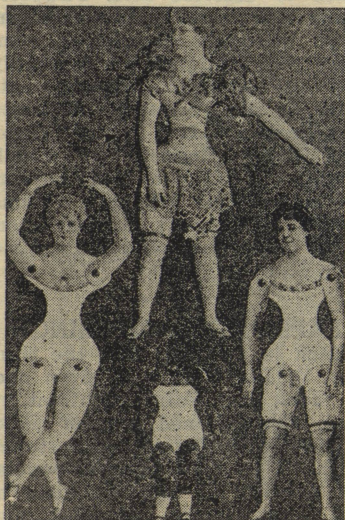
This time we will take small space to describe Mrs. Fawcett's brand new book as the enclosure is so definitely descriptive. One entry that intrigued me especially, was the complete listing, with dates, of many beautiful old magazine series, L.H.J. Lettie Lanes and Betty Bonnets by Sheila Young, etc. Correct costume connections of this delightful volume, even if you aren't curious about paper dolls themselves. Postpaid, from Kimport, \$5.00.

PAPER DOLL OFFERINGS

Back in October, 1948, the front page of Doll Talk was given over to "Jack and Fairy Lightfoot," a dear, old-fashioned pair of paper children with five sets of costumes each. They had been a popular toy offering of 1857, designed by one John Greene Chandler, now reprinted in Boston by a kinsman, H. H. Hosmer.

In 1951, Mr. Hosmer bought out another of the old Chandler originals. This one, "Alice," is a wasp-waisted girl in boat neck chemise with embroidered pantalettes below. The flat, gaiter type shoes

look just like those on early china dolls. Alice is scant 5 inches tall, printed on quality card while her two elaborate dresses and hat are on proper weight paper stock. Almost the quaintest thing of all is the rococo envelope, also exactly reprinted as in 1857 with blurbs and instructions in fancy shaded lettering, interlaced with vine scrolls and acanthus leaf corners! This elegant trifle is No. 189A, 50c. The Jack and Fairy item, No. 189, also 50c... Printed in gray on white that will take hand coloring to perfection.



The 1880 Pickaninny paper dolls are cunning as can be, not caricature, but winsome, chubby tots done in fine color lithography of the old German school. 8½ inch size, No. 191C, \$1.50.

The Ladies of the same era, naturalistic as color photographs, are Junoesque (14 inch!) size and delicious in coloring. Small wonder that both gallants and villains of the gas light era, loved to see their "beautiful dolls" decked out in sheer sunburst pleats, boas and plumes, glitter and sparkle galore. You could dress them in like manner, or just as they are, these jointed beauties are a collector item. Three styles (none dressed) No. 199F, \$2.00 each, or three sets at one time for \$5.00. Naturally, this stock is limited.

CHARACTERS— CHARACTERS!

Mrs. Marshall Hollingsworth wrote so interestingly about how she displayed her "Literary" dolls for a club talk. For instance, our Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn were stood up in front of an un-white-washed fence, but with small bucket and brush at hand all set for that classic encounter of words versus work!

Other dolls for this talk included Heidi, Scarlet O'Hara, Hansel and Gretel, Captain Ahab, Alice in Wonderland, Pinocchio, Ichabod Crane and Jo Alcott.

"As I wrote you I was fortunate in securing a collection of several hundred dolls, among them many Kimports. My apartment is so full of dolls that I may have to have another one for just me!"

IT'S A DATE—

A German importer wrote us that "Armand Marseille" heads have not been manufactured in Germany since 1920.

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPING

"I am much pleased with the dolls I have received from you and want to take this opportunity to thank you for the prompt attention the orders receive. After placing an order I am no doubt, like many others—just can't wait until the mailman brings the new dolls to see what they look like and read their wonderful pedigree pages."—Mrs. Raymond C. DuVall, New York.

"I enjoy especially the little doll from Belgium, who reminds me of an old sweetheart of my husband's whom he didn't get, thank goodness! She was from Belgium too."—Louise Leonberger, California.

"I just found out what happened to my good stationery—it made beautiful paper doll clothes!"—Mrs. Dale Unger, Ohio.

"The solid wax antique is such a lovely lady and I don't mind in the least that her taffeta gown is so worn! My mother has a taffeta dress which was her grandmother's. It is identical in style, with ribbon trim, full net sleeves under the silk ones and lace collar with deep points in front, just like this doll costume!" — Mrs. Lloyd Swift, Virginia.

"I have a group of fifteen dolls which I take to the fourth grades in the public schools each week to talk on Michigan Explorers, including such men as, Champlain, Pere Marquette, La Salle, Nicolet, etc." — Marion G. Bender, Michigan.

"My daughter, Rae, is very enthusiastic about Kimport Dolls. Her foreign made dolls are a constant source of joy to her and her friends."—Mrs. W. M. Crownover, Oklahoma.

"I have your Country Doctor (because my husband is one) and now I would like another for a gift for a friend who saw him and admired him." — Mrs. J. M. Brand, West Virginia.

"You put temptation in my hands with every edition of Doll Talk. This time, though, I know I shouldn't fall—I am. Maybe I can call it a Christmas present from me to me."—Doris Mitchell, New York.

"The little china dolls you sent are really quaint. I stuffed mine with cork I had saved from an old doll's body. It made up quite easily, except that cork is hard to stuff into anything so small as it acts rather 'springy.' Mother said they are just like the kind she and her sisters played with when they were children. There were four sisters and none of the dolls survived!"—Evelyn Gehman, N. J.

"I recently found an all china doll, jointed at shoulders and hips, about seven inches tall, decidedly a woman's face. Are there many of these, do you know?" — Vera Chatfield, Ohio.

"I received my first copy of 'Doll Talk' last week. No wonder it was recommended by fellow doll collectors! It is exactly the magazine I have been dreaming of."—Mrs. Lee Shapton, Michigan.



Oh, don't be Old Fashioned.

No obligation; give your curiosity a break and ask for a Doll-Of-The-Month explanation sheet.

Allow yourself the luxury of a hobby. Climb right on. Call it a hobby—Have Fun! Certainly, it is permissible to say your dolls are for decoration, but in your heart, aren't they a Hobby? We hope so.

Now by way of testimonial advertising, here are a few spontaneous quotes:

"I am only half way through this year's Doll of the Month Plan and already have mapped out next year's choices."

Elizabeth Gunter—New York.

"I've had more pleasure than I can tell you from this Doll of the Month Plan. My friends take an interest and one of the first questions brought up is about what new doll I got last."

Mrs. F. A. Heimann—Texas.

"If I am pleased with the Doll of the Month selections for the next two months, I may want to start my other daughter on this plan, as she is developing a desire for doll collecting as her sister has."

Mrs. Jennie Johns—Pennsylvania

KIMPORT DOLLS, Independence, Mo.